

Common Course Syllabus

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2301

Course Title: General Psychology

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

Does this course satisfy a core curriculum requirement? Yes – Behavioral and Social Science

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview, and Dual Credit Campuses

Textbook: Open Stax Psychology Text

Course Specific Instructions: Internet –go to Blackboard. Each instructor will attach his/her course specific instructions.

Course Description: Survey of the essential subject areas, major theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Course Purpose/Rationale/Goal: To acquaint students with the diverse field of psychology including major theoretical concepts. In addition, introduce methods of research used and how it contributes to the body of knowledge in psychology, promotion of critical thinking, generation of new ideas, and consideration of alternate explanations when evaluating information.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to complete this course, a student should attend all class meetings and/or login to internet courses at least twice weekly. In addition, satisfactorily complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and satisfactorily complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the course specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the specific instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student may be

withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thoughts that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

Core Objectives addressed

- Communication skills-to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- Critical thinking skills-to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Empirical and Quantitative skills-to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Social Responsibility-to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

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Mrs. Gilster's General Psychology Course, Fall 2018

COURSE TITLE: PSYC 2301

INSTRUCTOR: Crystal Gilster, M.S., LPC

PHONE: (806) 831-2197 (I will respond quickest to text)

E-MAIL: cgilster@southplainscollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only, if you'd like to schedule an appointment send a text message and email.

TEXTBOOK: Psychology. OpenStax (Rice University/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

<https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/psychology> Follow the link above for the following options: FREE

View the interactive book on-line. It includes free interactive videos and learning exercises.

- FREE View, download, or print a PDF of this book.
- \$4.99 Download the book in iBooks to your computer, phone, or tablet.
- \$40 purchase a hard copy printed version of the book through Amazon.
ISBN: 1938168356

COURSE WEBSITES: Blackboard Accessibility

<http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx>

Microsoft Office Accessibility

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/default.aspx>

OpenStax Accessibility

www.openstax.org/details/psychology

Course Policies

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be calculated based on the following percentages

A 90% -100%

B 80% -89%

C 79% -70%

D 69% -60%

F 59% -0 %

Grade Opportunities	% Toward Total Grade
4 Tests and 1 Project	70%
10 Quizzes & Exercises/Classroom Participation	30%

Calendar of Dates: Weekly Topic/Chapter Exams, Quizzes, Holidays, and Project Due Date: see attachment on Blackboard, dates are subject to change.

Exams (100 points each): Throughout the semester 4 (four) exams will be given. See Class Schedule for Exam Dates.

Make-Up Tests- Should you be unable to attend a scheduled exam for any reason, it is imperative that you notify me before the scheduled test date. The make-up test will typically take place prior to the time of the scheduled exam for the rest of the class. In case of an unforeseen major emergency and you are forced to miss a scheduled exam without prior notification, this will count as your dropped grade if you have earned your Attendance Reward. Please know that I only grant Make-Up exams in extreme cases. Here are the stipulations I required: 1. you must contact me by e-mail within 1 (one) day of the exam, 2. You must provide documentation of the major emergency. I reserve the right to deny a makeup exam to maintain fairness to other students. If I choose to allow a make-up exam based on the provided documentation of a major emergency, it must be taken prior to the next class period. Without documentation of a major emergency, you will not have the opportunity to make-up the exam. Your make-up exam may not be the same exam administered to the rest of the class. If you simply show up to the next class period after missing an exam without making considerable efforts to contact me by email within one day of the missed exam, you will most certainly be denied a make-up exam regardless of your circumstances.

Quizzes, Exercises, & Classroom Participation: Participation in classroom discussion, exercises, assignments and quizzes are expected. These assignments give you an opportunity to make certain you are absorbing the material. The quizzes or exercises typically are open book, open note quizzes. Reading the chapter and participating in class prior to the quiz will help you move through them more efficiently. Log on to BlackBoard if you miss a class or text instructor to see if there was an assignment given in class. Coming to class is vital to your success.

Technical difficulties may occur, so manage your time and be prepared to avoid missing the due date.

Project: This Project is designed to display your critical thinking skills regarding the practical applications of psychology. Sometimes students demonstrate their understanding of psychological principles better in projects than in traditional multiple choice exams.

- I will grade the project on how well you use the information from the lectures and textbook, therefore, the text book should be your primary reference.
- You are required to submit a hard copy of your project, and any project submitted late will not be accepted.
- Include a title page to all projects with your name, PSYC 2301 and section number. Be sure to save a digital or hard copy of any project just in case an issue arrives.

This project will be averaged with your multiple choice test scores. Academic English and Academic Integrity: Your written assignments should be presented using Standard Written English and be proficient in Academic English... "A form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts." An important reminder, as stated in SPC's catalog, "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." A student who is found guilty of plagiarism could fail or receive a zero on the project for the first offense and could be dropped from the course should a second offense occur.

Classroom Policies

- **Respect for Fellow Students:** All students will maintain respect for fellow classmates' personal beliefs, values, morals and life situations. Insensitivity concerning race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, mental/physical disability, psychological disorders, age, or socio-economic status (family situation) will not be tolerated.
- **Electronic Devices:** The use of cell phones is not permitted in the classroom unless otherwise given by instructor; they should be silenced and put away while in the

classroom. Devices used for note-taking are permitted, but should be used responsibly and should not create distractions for you or others. You will need to sit on the front row if you are using such a device so that I can assist in holding you accountable to participating in class. If you do not act responsibly with an electronic device, I have the right to confiscate it until the end of class, and prohibit you from bringing it in the future. You may use a tape recorder to record lectures. **All electronic devices including SMART WATCHES should be turned off and put out of sight during exams.** Failure to comply could result in a zero on the exam.

- Tardiness: Please do your best to manage your time well and be on time to class. If you are tardy, please enter the back of the room quietly and take a seat as close to the door as you can get. Being late to class is disruptive to your fellow classmates. If I have already taken attendance, you will need to speak to me after class to make sure you were not counted as absent.
- Disruptive Behavior: "Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course." (See Student Guide)
- Attendance and Administrative Drop Policy: I will take attendance during each class session. Students will be responsible for material presented and discussed in class. If you fail to complete 2 major grades or have over 4 unexcused absences, I may be forced to drop you from this course with an X or F. Absences are excused only after I have seen some **form of documentation**, and that documentation must be presented by the beginning of the next class that you attend.

Sending me a text saying, "I'm going to miss class for XYZ reason does NOT give you an excused absence."

I maintain the right to decide whether an absence is marked as "excused" or "unexcused" based on your documentation, the reason for your absence, your communication with me, and fairness to other students.

Attendance Reward: If you complete the course with 2 or less absences (excused or unexcused) you will be able to drop your lowest test grade.

*** Excused absences DO count against your Attendance Reward total.**

Only students who have 2 or less absences of **any kind** will earn the Attendance Reward.

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism...” For further information and examples please see www.plagiarism.org. Handing in work that was submitted for completion of another course will not be permitted. Students found guilty of such academic dishonesty will receive a 0 (zero) the work in question and will be dropped from the course should a second offense occur.

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In short, “Bigotry will not be tolerated.” (Student Guide) South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College -1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806-894-9611

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.